



The Old Ironsides Report

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Civil Affairs Team Works to Improve Baghdad Streets

**Story and Photo by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson
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BAGHDAD, Iraq – The 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, and Army Reserve unit from Riverdale, Md., is working to make Baghdad city streets a safer place to travel.

Lt. Col. Joe Wunderlich, transportation officer for the public facilities team from the 354th, has been working with Mujahid Shariff, director general for projects for the city of Baghdad, in order to identify and repair major problem areas in the streets of Baghdad, a city of five million people.

“These projects that we are taking on have been identified by the mayor of Baghdad as very important parts of the overall transportation infrastructure,” said Wunderlich. “We are repairing or replacing hundreds of guardrails, traffic lights, and curb stands.”

Although Wunderlich and his team have overseen completion of work on some damage caused by the conflict here, he said that many of the repairs they have done and will do are on pre-existing problems.

“Along the road to Baquba, there was a one- or two-meter falloff that we fixed for the safety of both the Iraqi people and the coalition forces that use the highways,” Wunderlich said. “There are decades-old, traffic light systems, and drivers’ behaviors have become very poor.”

Wunderlich said the Army is working to repair damage to bring the roads back to pre-war or better conditions, whether caused by coalition forces or not, so that people can drive on the streets as safely as possible.

And goal, he explained, is to improve “traffic-ability” throughout the city by moving vendors to appropriate locations -- out of the flow of traffic -- and by getting traffic control points up and running, to get people to begin to obey traffic laws.

“There is a comprehensive traffic study being done right now,” Wunderlich said. “Although years of neglect have affected it, in the years to come, I see Baghdad becoming a thriving, metropolitan, world-class city.”



Iraqi road workers lay down a few coats of paint on a downtown curb as part of Baghdad's road restoration efforts. Civil Affairs teams are assisting the city with assessing problem areas with public streets, as well as getting the ball rolling on repairs and replacement of essential safety items.

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

WEAPON CLEARING BARRELS SHOULD BE LOCATED:

- ✓ ENTRANCES TO ALL FOBs
- ✓ ENTRANCES TO HQs/BCTs/BN/CO CPs
- ✓ DINNING FACILITIES
- ✓ AAFES FACILITIES
- ✓ OTHER COMMAND DESIGNATED AREAS

NEWS

Israeli Police Detain Jewish Settler JERUSALEM (AP) - Police briefly detained a Jewish settler from Hebron who allegedly talked of killing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, police said Monday, while hundreds of Palestinian students there protested to demand that a college Israel shut down be reopened. Hebron is West Bank flashpoint where about 550 Jewish settlers live in three enclaves, surrounded by more than 130,000 Palestinians.

Electricity Restored in Parts of Basra BASRA, Iraq (AP) - British troops restored badly needed electricity to parts of Basra and supervised distribution of gasoline Monday after two days of protests over fuel and power shortages. A U.S. soldier was killed and two were wounded in a bomb attack in central Iraq. The soldiers from the 4th Infantry Division came under attack with a homemade bomb in front of the police station they were guarding in Baqouba, 45 miles north of Baghdad, late Sunday, Maj. Mark Solomons said.

Taylor Leaves Liberia After Resigning MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) - Indicted war criminal Charles Taylor left Liberia for exile Monday after resigning as president, under international pressure and besieged by rebels who have seized most of the country. Within two hours of Taylor's long-awaited resignation - in which he handed power to Vice President Moses Blah - three U.S. warships appeared on the horizon off the coast of the capital.

Chaplain's thought for the day: *Patience*

Hebrews 12:1 tells us to "run with endurance" the race set before us. George Matheson wrote, "We commonly associate patience with lying down. We think of it as the angel that guards the couch of the invalid. Yet there is a patience that I believe to be harder — the patience that can run. To lie down in the time of grief, to be quiet under the stroke of adverse fortune, implies a great strength; but I know of something that implies a strength greater still: it is the power to work under stress; to have a great weight at your heart and still run; to have a deep anguish in your spirit and still perform the daily tasks." To wait is hard; to do it with "good courage" is harder!

-- Our Daily Bread

SPORTS

No Charges Filed in Toughman Boxing Death SARASOTA, Fla. (AP) - Police said Monday they will not charge an amateur boxing promoter for the death of a 30-year-old woman who was beaten into a coma during a Toughman competition. Promoter Art Dore violated no state laws and cannot be charged with the June 17 death of Stacy Young, a mother of two who had entered the June 14 bout on an impulse when no opponent could be found for the only other woman to sign up, Chief Peter Abbott said.

Oddly Enough:

Chickens Lose Special Status in Fla. Town BARTOW, Fla. (AP) -- Stray chickens are now fair game in the central Florida town of Bartow. City commissioners approved an ordinance last week to strip the fowls of protection under the city's status as a bird sanctuary, allowing the wandering birds to be captured and exiled from the city. The city will hire someone to capture stray chickens, and they will be held for three days to give time for people to claim ownership. If they are not claimed, they will be handed over to someone outside the city. The city's code enforcement board had been receiving rising complaints about chickens escaping from captive flocks. The birds have been known to dig up yards, fight in the streets and sometimes scratch cars. The roosters are even more annoying, constantly crowing before dawn. The city's 1922 bird sanctuary ordinance makes it illegal to kill, capture or even "annoy" any feathered friends.

On This Day In History: *August 12th 1961*

In an effort to stem the tide of refugees attempting to leave East Berlin, the communist government of East Germany begins building the Berlin Wall to divide East and West Berlin. Construction of the wall caused a short-term crisis in U.S.-Soviet bloc relations, and the wall itself came to symbolize the Cold War. Throughout the 1950s and into the early 1960s, thousands of people from East Berlin crossed over into West Berlin to reunite with families and escape communist repression. In an effort to stop that outflow, the government of East Germany, on the night of August 12, 1961, began to seal off all points of entrance into West Berlin from East Berlin by stringing barbed wire and posting sentries.